

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 /097 W
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R 251347Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0907
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, XA, GW
SUBJ: FOREIGN OFFICE REORGANIZATION AFFECTING
AFRICA AND ME DEPARTMENTS

SUMMARY: THE FRG FONOFF IS PLANNING A
MAJOR RESTRUCTURING OF THE THIRD WORLD
SECTION OF ITS POLITICAL DEPARTMENT. FIRST
STEP WILL BE CREATION OF SEPARATE DIVISIONS
FOR AFRICA AND FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, EACH
HEADED BY COMMISSIONER WITH RANK OF
AMBASSADOR. HOPED FOR EFFECT WILL BE
STRENGTHENING OF AFRICA AND ME SECTIONS
WHICH WERE FORMERLY GROUPED TOGETHER IN
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ONE DIVISION. END SUMMARY.

1. AS THE FONOFF IS PRESENTLY ORGANIZED, DEPARTMENT
THREE, HEADED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOTHAR LAHN, IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THIRD WORLD POLITICAL AFFAIRS. DEPART-
MENT THREE HAS TWO DIVISIONS; THE FIRST, HEADED BY
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARTHOLD WITTE, IS CHARGED

WITH LATIN AMERICA, ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (INCLUDING THE SUBCONTINENT), AND RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD MOVEMENT. THE SECOND, UNDER DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WALTER JESSER, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE NEAR EAST, AND THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE.

2. INCREASED GERMAN INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE THIRD WORLD, MAGNIFIED BY THE EMERGENCE OF AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST AS THE LEADING CRISIS AREAS OF THE WORLD, HAVE MADE THAT ORGANIZATION OBSOLETE. ONE MAN (JESSER) CAN NO LONGER BE EXPECTED TO HANDLE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOTH CRISIS AREAS. THE PERSONNEL STRENGTH IN THE AFRICA/ME DIVISION, WHICH HAS BEEN UNCHANGED SINCE THE 1960'S, IS ALSO NO LONGER CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED WORKLOAD. FURTHERMORE, THE INFLUX OF HIGH RANKING AFRICAN AND ARAB VISITORS TO BONN HAS PUT A STRAIN ON THE STATE SECRETARY AND MINISTERIAL LEVEL, SINCE THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE KNOWLEDGEABLE YET OF SUFFICIENT RANK TO RECEIVE THEM.

3. TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM, FONMIN GENSCHER HAS PROPOSED THE CREATION OF FOUR SEPARATE DIVISIONS WITHIN DEPARTMENT THREE: LATIN AMERICA, ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, MIDDLE AND NEAR EAST, AND AFRICA. EACH DIVISION WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE HEADED BY A COMMISSIONER WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, AND VISITS FOR HIS AREA. THE NEW COMMISSIONERS, IT IS HOPED, WOULD RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON THE TOP LEVELS OF THE FONOFF AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, PROMOTE GREATER EFFICIENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS IN EACH OF THE NEW DIVISIONS.

4. BECAUSE OF CERTAIN TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, THIS REORGANIZATION PLAN WILL NOT GO INTO EFFECT ALL AT ONCE. (THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR AND FINANCE, WHICH MUST APPROVE BUREAUCRATIC RESTRUCTURING OF THIS TYPE, HAVE NOT YET GIVEN THEIR APPROVAL TO THE CHANGES AS REQUESTED BY GENSCHER). AS A FIRST STEP, ONLY THE SECOND DIVISION WILL BE AFFECTED: AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE/NEAR EAST WILL EACH BE MADE A SEPARATE DIVISION. HELMUT MUELLER, NOW DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS WILL BE NAMED COMMISSIONER FOR AFRICA, WHILE JESSER WILL RETAIN HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MIDDLE/NEAR EAST AFFAIRS AND THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, ALSO WITH THE TITLE OF COMMISSIONER. MUELLER AND JESSER, HOWEVER, WILL NOT TAKE UP THEIR

NEW RESPONSIBILITIES UNTIL FALL.

5. THE ME/NE DIVISION WILL NOT BE AFECTED GREATLY
AS A RESULT OF THE RESTRUCTURING. JESSER, WHO WAS

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PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN ME AFFAIRS EVEN IN HIS OLD POSITION, WILL REMAIN IN CHARGE. THE EFFECTS ARE, HOWEVER, EXPECTED TO BE FELT MORE ON THE AFRICAN SIDE. MUELLER HAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEEN CONSIDERED THE "HOUSE EXPERT" ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS. MANY OF GENSCHER'S OPINIONS VIS-A-VIS AFRICA CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO MUELLER. MUELLER HAS ALSO REPRESENTED THE FRG AMONG THE EC AFRICAN EXPERTS AND, RECENTLY, IN VARIOUS FORA OF THE CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK AND SOUTH AFRICA. HE WILL NOW HAVE THE PROTOCOL WEIGHT COMMENSURATE WITH HIS INFLUENCE.

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6. COMMENT: THE PERSONALITIES--MUELLER AND JESSER--
REMAIN THE SAME, DOING BASICALLY WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN
DOING. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS
ORGANIZATIONAL SHIFT IMPLIES OR BODES ANY CHANGE FOR
THE FRG'S POLICY TOWARD EITHER AREA. IN FACT, WITH
THE EXCEPTION OF MUELLER'S PROMOTION, WE FORESEE
FEW OF THE HOPED-FOR BENEFITS OF THE SHIFT BEING
REALIZED. THE PROBLEMS OF WORK ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE,
SINCE EVEN WITH THE ADDITION OF ONE OR TWO MORE BODIES,
THE TOTAL COMPLEMENT OF EACH NEW DIVISION WILL REMAIN
UNDER A DOZEN OFFICERS. FURTHERMORE, WE DO NOT
EXPECT VISITING DIGNITARIES TO ABANDON THEIR REQUESTS
TO SEE THE CHANCELLOR OR FOREIGN MINISTER BECAUSE THEY
NOW HAVE A NEW "COMMISSIONER" TO TALK WITH. NEVERTHE-
LESS, THE EXISTENCE OF A "COMMISSIONER" MAY SIMPLIFY
SOME OF THE PROTOCOL PROBLEMS OF HAVING A SUBSTANTIVE
"EXPERT" TAKE PART IN HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS.

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Subject: FOREIGN OFFICE REORGANIZATION AFFECTING AFRICA AND ME DEPARTMENTS SUMMARY: THE FRG FONOFF IS PLANNING A
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